

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Frank M. Peck,
Petitioner

V.

Brian Williams, et al.,
Respondents

Case No.: 2:17-cv-01620-JAD-VCF

Order Granting Motion to Reopen Case and Setting Briefing Schedule

[ECF No. 85]

Petitioner Frank M. Peck brings this motion to reopen the action.¹ He argues that he has voluntarily dismissed his appeal and wants to proceed with representation by counsel. I find that good cause exists to grant the motion.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the motion to reopen case [ECF No. 85] is **GRANTED**. The clerk of the court is directed to lift the stay and reopen this action.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that petitioner has until August 17, 2021, to file a third amended petition or seek other appropriate relief. Petitioner always remains responsible for calculating the running of the federal limitation period and timely asserting claims without regard to any deadlines established or extensions granted herein. By setting a deadline to amend the petition or by granting any extension thereof, the court makes no finding or representation that the petition, any amendments thereto, or any claims contained therein are not subject to dismissal as untimely.²

¹ ECF No. 85.

² See *Sossa v. Diaz*, 729 F.3d 1225, 1235 (9th Cir. 2013).

1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondents will have 60 days after service of a third
2 amended petition to file a response to it (including any motion to dismiss); petitioner must file
3 any reply within 30 days of service of an answer. If respondents file a motion instead of an
4 answer, the response and reply deadlines set by Local Rule LR 7-2(b) will apply for that motion.

5 Because it would be judicially inefficient and taxing on the parties and the Court to
6 address procedural defenses in this case in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded
7 in the answer, IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondents must raise any procedural defenses
8 to the counseled third amended petition together in a single, consolidated motion to dismiss.
9 Procedural defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver.
10 Respondents thus may not file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural defenses,
11 if any, with their response on the merits, except as permitted by 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) for any
12 unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If respondents do seek dismissal of unexhausted
13 claims under § 2254(b)(2): (1) they must do so within the single motion to dismiss not in the
14 answer, and (2) they must direct their argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2)
15 set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623–24 (9th Cir. 2005). No procedural defenses,
16 including exhaustion, may be included with the merits in an answer; all procedural defenses,
17 including exhaustion, must be raised instead by motion to dismiss.

18 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, in any answer filed on the merits, respondents must
19 cite to and address the applicable state-court written decision and state-court record materials, if
20 any, regarding each claim within the response to that claim.

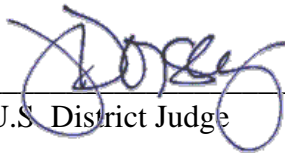
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1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the paper-copy rule in Local Rule LR IC 2-2(g) is
2 **SUSPENDED** for this case; paper copies of any electronically filed exhibits need not be
3 provided to chambers or to the staff attorney unless later directed by the Court.

4 Dated: April 19, 2021

5 
6 U.S. District Judge